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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/659,693	09/11/2000	Schat Sutardja	MP0062	5047
23624	7590	03/30/2004	EXAMINER	
MARVELL SEMICONDUCTOR, INC. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT 700 FIRST AVENUE, MS# 509 SUNNYVALE, CA 94089			MCCHESNEY, ELIZABETH A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2644	
			DATE MAILED: 03/30/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/659,693

Applicant(s)

SUTARDJA, SEHAT

Examiner

Elizabeth A McChesney

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If the period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-172 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-172 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2 and 6.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Double Patenting

2. Applicant is advised that should claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 46 be found allowable, claims 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 80, 82, 83, 84, 85, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93 and 94 (respectively) will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by an other filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. **Claims 1-6, 9-15, 18-20, 22-23, 26, 28-33, 36-37, 38-42, 45-47, 49, 50-54, 57-63, 66-68, 70-71, 74, 76-81, 84-90, 93, 95, 97-112** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Huang et al. (US Patent No. 6,119,091).

Regarding **claims 1, 11, 28, 38, 49 and 76**, Huang et al. (hereinafter, "Huang") discloses a multimedia device that includes a storage device 216 which stores compressed media data. Huang further discloses a 'processor', which includes discrete hardware elements comprising of 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228 and 230 (see figure 2) wherein the 'processor' retrieves the media data stored on the storage device 216, via the read head 220 controlled by the DSP 210. Huang further discloses a memory 204 to store the data retrieved by the 'processor'. Huang further discloses the a decoder 228 which is an element included in the processor that decompresses the data stored in memory 204. Huang further discloses an output circuit (outputs from the decoder 228) to output the decompressed media from the 'processor'.

Regarding **claims 2, 12, 29, 39, 50, 60, 77 and 87**, Huang further discloses the memory 204 synchronous dynamic random access memory (SDRAM) (col. 3-lines 36-38).

Regarding **claims 3,13, 30, 40, 51, 61, 78 and 88**, Huang further discloses the 'processor' receives input signals from, for example, a television tuner or some other

external device (col. 3-lines 31-32), wherein an interface for receiving signals between the 'processor' and external component is inherently taught shown by receiving inputs and outputs of audio and video to the 'processor'.

Regarding **claims 4, 14, 31, 52 and 79**, Huang further discloses a 'processor', which includes discrete hardware elements comprising of 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228 and 230 (see figure 2) wherein the 'processor' controls the storage device 216, via the read head 220 controlled by the DSP 210 as well as decompresses the media, via decoder 228 which is stored in memory 204 and therefore reads on the claimed limitation.

Regarding **claims 5, 32, 41, 53, 62, 80 and 89**, Huang further discloses a 'processor', which includes discrete hardware elements comprising of 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228 and 230 (see figure 2) wherein the 'processor' controls the storage device 216, via the read head 220 controlled by the DSP 210 as well as decompresses the media, via decoder 228 which is stored in memory 204. Huang further discloses the DSP 210 element acts as a controller for the read/write components of the system (col. 4-lines 45-47). Huang further discloses a read head 220, which reads on a read channel to read the data from the storage device 216 which is responsive to the controller 210 (see figure 2).

Regarding **claims 6, 15, 33, 42, 54, 63, 81 and 90**, Huang further discloses a 'processor', which reads on a digital signal processor, decompresses the media data stored in memory 204 via the decoder 228 (see figure 2).

Regarding **claims 9, 18, 36, 45, 57, 66, 84 and 93**, Huang further discloses the 'processor' receives media data from, for example, a television tuner or some other external device (col. 3-lines 31-32), wherein it is inherently taught by the reference that the media data is transferred from the external device through an interface for storage on the storage device 216. This is taught by merely showing the 'processor' receives input signal from external data. It is well known that this must occur through some known interface. The type of interface, of course, depends on the way transmission of signals.

Regarding **claims 10, 19, 37, 46, 58, 67, 85**, Huang further discloses inputting the signal into the 'processor' via the encoder 202 wherein the encoder provides compression of the digital audio and video inputs (col. 3-lines 62-63 and see figure 2). Huang further discloses the compressed signals are stored on the storage device 216 (col. 4-lines 56-58 and see figure 2).

Regarding **claims 20, 47, 68 and 95**, Huang discloses a multimedia device that includes a storage device 216 which stores compressed media data. Huang further discloses a 'processor', which includes discrete hardware elements comprising of 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228 and 230 (see figure 2) wherein the 'processor' retrieves the media data stored on the storage device 216, via the read head 220 controlled by the DSP 210. Huang further discloses a memory 204 to store the data retrieved by the 'processor'. Huang further discloses the a decoder 228 which is an element included in the processor that decompresses the data stored in memory 204. Huang further discloses an output circuit (outputs from the decoder 228) to output

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the decompressed media from the 'processor'. Huang further discloses D/A converter 236 for converting the decompressed signal to an analog signal for output. Huang further discloses the DSP 210 element acts as a controller for the read/write components of the system (col. 4-lines 45-47). Huang further discloses a read head 220, which reads on a read channel to read the data from the storage device 216 which is responsive to the controller 210 (see figure 2).

Regarding **claims 22 and 70**, it is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons as set forth above in claim 1. Since claims 22 and 70 disclose a method, which corresponds to, the apparatus of claim 1; the method is obvious in that it simply provides functionality for the structure of claim 1.

Regarding **claims 23 and 71**, it is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons as set forth above in claim 3. Since claims 23 and 71 disclose a method, which corresponds to, the apparatus of claim 3; the method is obvious in that it simply provides functionality for the structure of claim 3.

Regarding **claims 26 and 74**, Huang discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claims 22 and 70). Huang further discloses inputting the signal into the 'processor' via the encoder 202 wherein the encoder provides compression of the digital audio and video inputs (col. 3-lines 62-63 and see figure 2). Huang further discloses the compressed signals are stored on the storage device 216 (col. 4-lines 56-58 and see figure 2).

Regarding **claims 59 and 86**, Huang discloses a multimedia device that includes a storage device 216 which stores compressed media data. Huang further discloses a

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'processor', which includes discrete hardware elements comprising of 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228 and 230 (see figure 2) wherein the 'processor' retrieves the media data stored on the storage device 216, via the read head 220 controlled by the DSP 210. Huang further discloses a memory 204 to store the data retrieved by the 'processor'. Huang further discloses the a decoder 228 which is an element included in the processor that decompresses the data stored in memory 204. Huang further discloses an output circuit (outputs from the decoder 228) to output the decompressed media from the 'processor'. Huang further discloses a 'processor', which includes discrete hardware elements comprising of 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228 and 230 (see figure 2) wherein the 'processor' controls the storage device 216, via the read head 220 controlled by the DSP 210 as well as decompresses the media, via decoder 228 which is stored in memory 204 and therefore reads on the claimed limitation.

Regarding **claims 97, 100, 104, 106 and 109**, Huang further discloses the device 102 accepts multimedia discs in the drive 104 wherein the disc reads on the storage device 216.

Regarding **claims 98, 101, 105, 107 and 110**, Huang further discloses the multimedia disk 216 which reads on the storage device and thus reads on all the claimed limitations, which include an optical disk, magnetic disk, CD ROM, CDR and CDRW).

Regarding **claims 99, 102, 103, 108, 111 and 112**, Huang further discloses the device 102 accepts multimedia discs in the drive 104 wherein the disc reads on the

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storage device 216. Huang further discloses the DSP 210 element acts as a controller for the read/write components of the system (col. 4-lines 45-47) and thus controls the storage device/hard disk and therefore is a hard disk controller.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 7-8, 16-17, 21, 25, 34-35, 42-43, 48, 55-56, 64-65, 69, 73, 82-83, 91-92 and 96** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. (US Patent No. 6,119,091).

Regarding **claims 7, 16, 34, 42, 55, 64, 82, and 91**, computer systems often include the necessary decoding software in memory. However, if the desired process is not already included, necessary decoding software can be retrieved directly from the disk for the computer to load the software to its system memory, as it is well known in the art that the decoding software may be accessed directly from the system's memory or retrievable from either the disk itself or even downloaded from the internet. Therefore it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the decoding software in which it is retrievable from any of those locations.

Regarding **claims 8, 17, 35, 43, 56, 65, 83 and 92**, Huang discloses the 'processor' controls the storage device 216, via the read head 220 controlled by the

DSP 210 (col. 4-lines 46-67). Therefore, when the DSP determines the type of compression format necessary, the software will be retrieved from the system's memory if available. If it is not available on the system, it would be obvious for one of ordinary skill to have provided the other well-known locations of decoding software, which include being retrieved from the disk's storage or from the Internet. The DSP 210 then sends the information to the decoder 228 for necessary decompression.

Regarding **claims 21, 48, 69, 96**, computer systems often include the necessary decoding software in memory. However, if the desired process is not already included, necessary decoding software can be retrieved directly from the disk for the computer to load the software to its system memory, as it is well known in the art that the decoding software may be accessed directly from the system's memory or retrievable from either the disk itself or even downloaded from the internet. Therefore it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the decoding software in which it is retrievable from any of those locations. Huang further discloses the 'processor' controls the storage device 216, via the read head 220 controlled by the DSP 210 (col. 4-lines 46-67). Therefore, when the DSP determines the type of compression format necessary, the software will be retrieved from the system's memory if available. If it is not available on the system, it would be obvious for one of ordinary skill to have provided the other well-known locations of decoding software, which include being retrieved from the disk's storage or from the Internet. The DSP 210 then sends the information to the decoder 228 for necessary decompression.

Regarding **claims 25 and 73**, it is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons as set forth above in claim 8. Since claim 8 discloses a method, which corresponds to, the apparatus of claim 8; the method is obvious in that it simply provides functionality for the structure of claim 8.

Regarding **claims 169-172**, Huang discloses a multimedia device that includes a storage device 216 which stores compressed media data. Huang further discloses a 'processor', which includes discrete hardware elements comprising of 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228 and 230 (see figure 2) wherein the 'processor' retrieves the media data stored on the storage device 216, via the read head 220 controlled by the DSP 210. Huang further discloses a memory 204 to store the data retrieved by the 'processor'. Huang further discloses a decoder 228, which is an element, included in the processor that decompresses the data stored in memory 204. Huang further discloses an output circuit (outputs from the decoder 228) to output the decompressed media from the 'processor'. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to transfer any amount of data desired to the memory. For example, the user could transfer into memory the contents of the entire disk or of just one or two songs if so desired for output to the listener wherein the user could continue to transfer more for example, one more song or the remaining contents of the disk.

7. **Claims 24, 27, 72, 75, 114, 124, 134 and 144** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. (US Patent No. 6,119,091) in view of Seiler et al. (US Patent No. 6,618,812).

Regarding **claims 24, 27, 72, 75, 114, 124, 134 and 144**, Huang fails to specifically point out a power saving method. However, power management systems are well known in the art dealing with computer systems for the purpose of saving the battery for long usage. Seiler et al. (hereinafter, "Seiler") discloses that virtually all computer manufacturers now are offering options for power management, wherein power is removed from selected subsystems for idle computers (col. 1-lines 22-25). Seiler further discloses a computer system 11 having a power management system, which includes a processor 21, DRAM memory 24 and a storage device 22 (figure 1). Seiler further discloses compressing the contents of system RAM and storing the compressed version of on a storage device before power is removed, therefore inherently teaching the energy is supplied during those steps mentioned above (col. 2-lines 35-46). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Huang with a power management system for the purpose of prolonging the usage of the device through saving the batteries during the times of non use.

Regarding **claims 113, 123, 133, 143, 153 and 161**, Huang discloses a multimedia device that includes a storage device 216 which stores compressed media data. Huang further discloses a 'processor', which includes discrete hardware elements comprising of 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228 and 230 (see figure 2) wherein the 'processor' retrieves the media data stored on the storage device 216, via

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the read head 220 controlled by the DSP 210. Huang further discloses a memory 204 to store the data retrieved by the 'processor'. Huang fails to specifically disclose energization and deenergization of the storage device.

However, Seiler discloses a compression/decompression routine as well, wherein contents of DRAM memory 24 are read and compressed and stored on the storage device 22 whereby deenergizing the system (col. 4-lines 58-63). Contents previously stored in the storage device 22 can be restored through the compression /decompression routine and the system is ready to resume operation (col. 5-lines 19-23). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Huang with Seiler to have the processor, which controls the retrieval of data from the storage device to also energize and deenergize the device for power saving techniques.

Regarding **claims 115, 116, 118, 119, 121, 122, 125, 126, 128, 129, 131, 132, 135, 136, 138, 139, 141, 142, 145, 146, 148, 149, 151, 152, 154 and 162** Seiler further discloses a compression/decompression routine wherein contents of DRAM memory 24 are read and compressed and stored on the storage device 22 whereby deenergizing the system (col. 4-lines 58-63). Contents previously stored in the storage device 22 can be restored through the compression /decompression routine and the system is ready to resume operation (col. 5-lines 19-23). Renewed activity causes an energizing of the system (col. 4-lines 1-4). An input sensing and timing portion is responsible for sensing input activity relative to time, so power saving modes may be initiated after predetermined periods of time (col. 4-lines 13-16). The input activity is monitored relative to time wherein if a predetermined value or threshold time is reached without

user activity determines the energizing or deenergizing of the system (col. 5-lines 63-66).

Regarding **claims 117, 127, 137 and 147**, Huang in view of Seiler discloses everything claimed as applied above. The teaching Huang modified by Seiler obviously includes the counter via the teachings of operating RAM wherein RAM updates addresses as data is retrieved and written to the memory.

Regarding **claims 120, 130, 140, 150**, Seiler further discloses a timing portion, which is responsible for sensing input activity relative to time, to determine user activity, such as, when a user begins transferring data from the memory which powers up the system or for when the user wants to power down and transfers data to the memory (col. 4-lines 13-16). In order for the power management to be fully effective, the input activity is monitored relative to time wherein if a predetermined value or threshold time is reached with/without user activity, the system is able to determine the energizing or deenergizing of the system (col. 5-lines 63-66).

Regarding **claims 155, 156, 163 and 164**, Seiler discloses a compression/decompression routine wherein contents of DRAM memory 24 are read and compressed and stored on the storage device 22 whereby at this point deenergizing the system (col. 4-lines 58-63). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to choose any predetermined amount desired to be stored on the memory or based on how much the memory can hold. The user may want the contents of an entire disk stored or maybe of one song. There is obviously some predetermined amount that is transferred and is taught because once that amount is transferred

inactivity would occur thereby triggering the system after some predetermined time to deenergize the device. Further the amount is obviously counted by transferring into the memory as of how much is stored and how much memory is still free for storage.

8. **Claims 24, 27, 72, 75 and 113-164** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. (US Patent No. 6,119,091) in view of Blodgett (US Patent No. 5,148,546).

Regarding **claims 24, 27, 72, 75, 113-164**, Huang fails to specifically point out the power saving component. Blodgett discloses a system for minimizing power consumption in personal computers as well as controlling the power requirements of RAM. Blodgett further discloses the computer operating system includes a processor 12, interface bus 14, memory 24 and storage device 18. Blodgett further discloses in a portable environment the power conservation is important wherein certain portions of the power supply are deenergized (col. 10-lines 53-61). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to exercise the energizing and deenergizing of various portions of the system for power conservation. This would allow the user to deenergize the system that is not in use and also energize the system that is needed. Blodgett further discloses a timer 48 and a counter 82 (col. 6-lines 39-68), which takes care of organizing, tracking and updating the data that is being transferred and stored in memory.

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Double Patenting

9. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

10. **Claims 1-112** are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of copending Application No. 10/184,302. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because any such portable device can be carried anywhere, for example, it can be transported in a briefcase, pocket, and vehicle to name a few. Any such portable media device as discussed above are well known to be connected and have operation in a vehicle, even if it is merely to connect for power.

11. **Claims 1-112** are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5, 20-23, 38-41, 56-59 and 74-85 of copending Application No. 10/184,299. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because any such portable device can be carried anywhere, for example, it can be transported in a

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briefcase, pocket, and vehicle to name a few. Any such portable media device as discussed above are well known to be connected and have operation in a vehicle, even if it is merely to connect for power.

12. **Claims 1-112** are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10, 26-34, 50-53, of copending Application No. 10/184,505. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the interface is inherently taught via input and output circuits are being applied wherein data is being directed to and from the system. Various types of interfaces are well known depending on port capabilities and necessities to the system environment.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth A. McChesney whose telephone number is (703) 308-4563. The examiner can normally be reached Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Forester W. Isen can be reached on (703) 305-4386.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

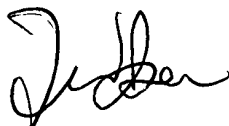
Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

EAM 
March 18, 2004


SPE, Art Unit 2644